Northwest Forest Plan Background Information
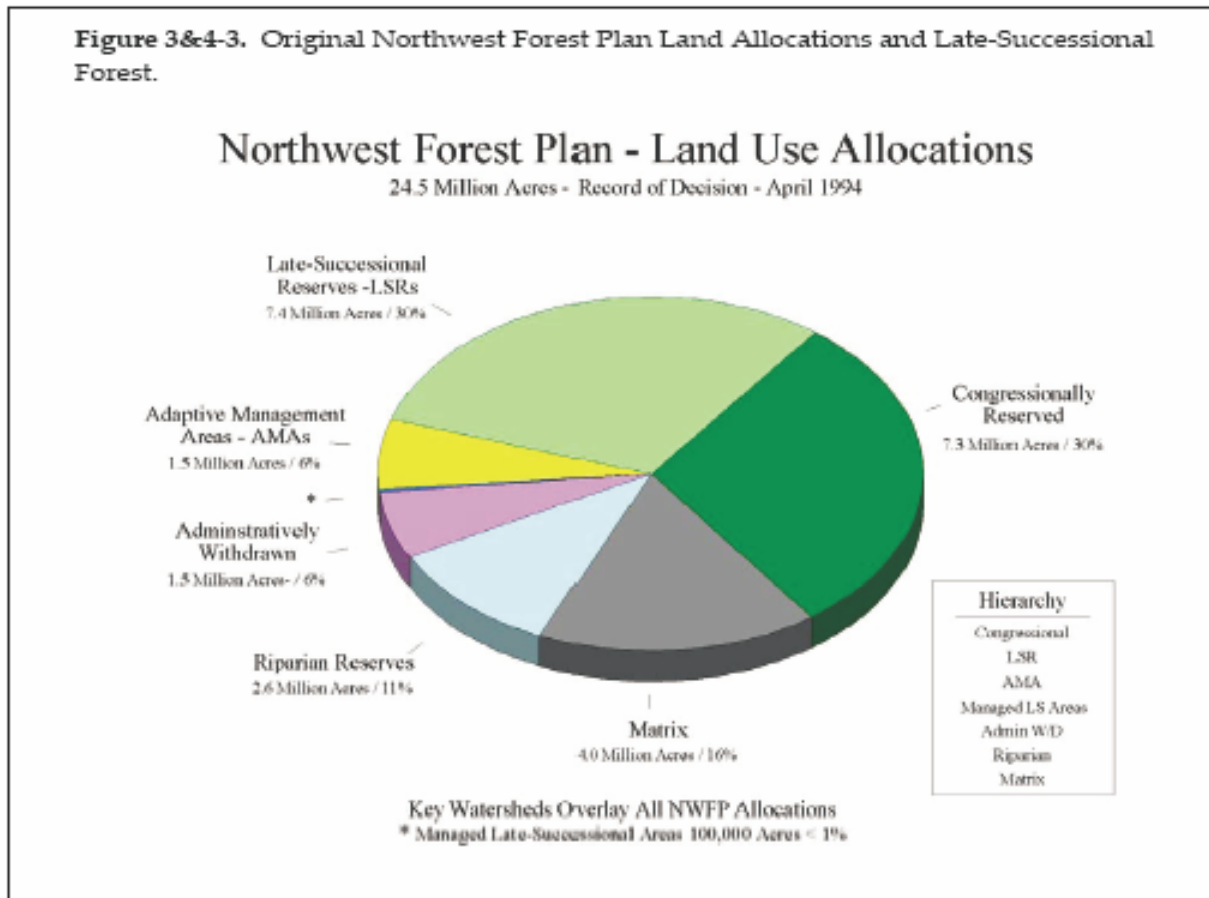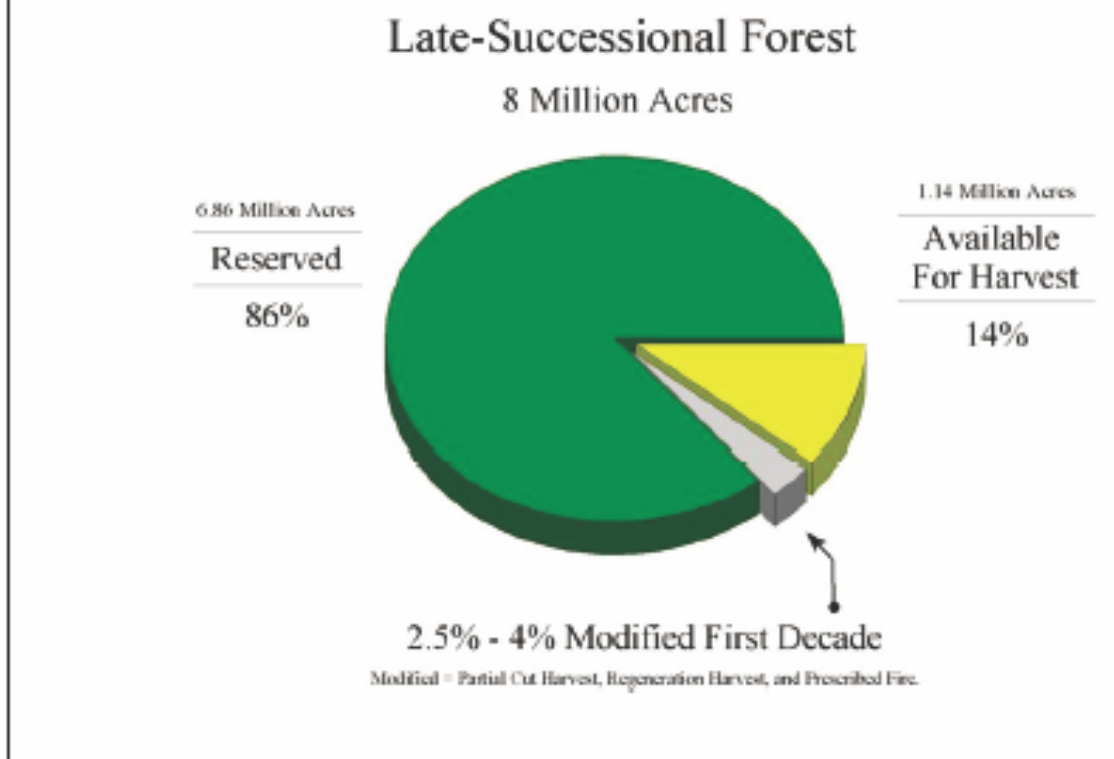

Figure 3&4-3. Original Northwest Forest Plan Land Allocations and Late-Successional Forest.

Northwest Forest Plan - Land Use Allocations
24.5 Million Acres - Record of Decision - April 1994

Late-Successional Reserves -LSRs
7.4 Million Acres / 30%

Congressionally Reserved
7.3 Million Acres / 30%

Adaptive Management Areas - AMAs
1.5 Million Acres / 6%

Administratively Withdrawn
1.5 Million Acres- / 6%

Riparian Reserves
2.6 Million Acres / 11%

Matrix
4.0 Million Acres / 16%

Hierarchy
Congressional
LSR
AMA
Managed LS Areas
Admin W/D
Riparian
Matrix

Key Watersheds Overlay All NWFP Allocations
* Managed Late-Successional Areas 100,000 Acres < 1%

• The Northwest Forest Plan incorporates conservation principles of maintaining: (1) connectivity across the landscape; (2) landscape heterogeneity; (3) structural complexity; and, (4) the integrity of aquatic systems;

• The fundamental elements of the Northwest Forest Plan species conservation strategy includes a large system of reserves, the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, and standards and guidelines for management under the various land allocations.

• Almost 80 percent of the Northwest Forest Plan area is reserved (see the Land Use Allocation figure);

• 86 percent of current late-successional forest is reserved (see the Late-Successional Forest figure);

• Less than 4 percent of late-successional forest will be disturbed by management per decade;

• Development of late-successional forest is 2.5 times the rate of loss through stand replacement fire and harvest;

• On average, approximately 50 percent of any watershed in the Matrix is reserved by the application of Riparian Reserves.

Figure 3&4-1. Late-Successional Forest in the Northwest Forest Plan Area.

• The 1994 Final SEIS and FEMAT concluded the Northwest Forest Plan would provide for maintenance and restoration of a functional and interconnected late-successional forest ecosystem.

• Matrix and Adaptive Management Areas - 1.1 million acres or 14 percent of the existing late-successional forest is assumed to be available for harvest within the Matrix and Adaptive Management Areas in support of the Probable Sale Quantity (PSQ) objectives of the Northwest Forest Plan.

‣ Matrix management activities, including regeneration harvest, partial cut harvest, and prescribed fire, will modify 2.5-4 percent of the existing and late-successional forest over a decade (see Late-Successional Forest figure).

‣ Matrix Standards and Guidelines provide for retention of legacy elements of late-successional forest after harvest such as snags, large green trees, and down logs. There are also provisions for retaining old-growth fragments in watersheds where little remain.